



## Bush Still President

### Carl Pope Says Need to Communicate

by Rachael Hunter

*The Sierra Club's advocacy for a clean and protected environment is rooted in fundamental American precepts about what is right and what is wrong. "How effectively do we, as Sierra Club members, communicate these values to the general public?" asked Carl Pope, Sierra Club Executive Director, at a training session in San Francisco.*



Addressing editorial staff in charge of reaching out to both members and non-members alike, Pope promoted simple, clear communication that focuses on the values that most Americans hold dear. One example Pope gave was the recent 2004 presidential election. While it was clear to most of the voting public that George Bush's campaign promoted faith in God and the sanctity of marriage, John Kerry did not send a similar message even though he may also believe in these things. Americans understood and, therefore,

could identify with Bush's beliefs, but not those of Kerry. Bush won the election and Sierra Club members must accept it.

So what can we do to educate and to promote the interconnection of values and environmental protection? Pope discussed specific ways each of us can engage others in a conversation that weaves together scientific facts and family values. He suggested that Sierra Club

members should not assume that everyone understands how values and environmental policies are connected. "Explain these relationships. Talk about issues in a way that connects values, family and the environment. How does a particular law, action or policy affect the health of a person's family or the land that is acces-

Continued on page 7

# Editorial Page

## Next Steps

This is my last editorial for the Delta Sierran. With the January/February 2005 issue, Leslie March, of the Honey Island Group, will take over as editor. I've had a great time editing the Delta Sierran for the last five years, and think that Leslie will continue our newsletter's tradition of printing wonderful newsletters with unforgettable stories, articles of great interest to our readers, and topics for everyone to think about.

We Delta Sierrans have just been through a very tough, bruising presidential campaign, with a devastating loss at the end. Instead of electing Sen. John Kerry, a pro-environment, conservation-minded president, the American people (half of them) returned President George W. Bush to office. He now has (he thinks) a green light to drill, mine, and chop his way through the next four years, with no political consequences to haunt him. He won't face the voters in 2008, and won't have to explain how his environmental policies have not made our country cleaner, safer, stronger, and more secure. He has a "legacy" to think of, but it won't be one we'll be proud of. His environmental legacy will be dirtier air, more polluted water, lost

habitat, more mercury in our environment, more endangered species "delisted", and more cars, trucks, and SUVs, and all of them with lower fuel efficiency. His legacy will include an energy bill with drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as a major component, and no discussion of energy efficiency or conservation measures. His last state of the Union address talked about a future of hydrogen fuel cells, but the source of the hydrogen would be hydrocarbons, courtesy of his biggest supporters in the oil and gas industry. Those hydrogen fuel cells would be ten years down the line. He doesn't talk of major funding for mass transit, or of putting money into state and federal budgets for bicycle lanes or bike racks on buses and streetcars, so that people can leave their cars at home, save fuel, and get where they need to go. Before we know it, 2008 will be here, and it will be time to elect a new president, either Republican or Democrat. (Sorry, Greens and others. The Electoral College system isn't set up to handle more than two parties at a time right now.) If we in the environmental community want a pro-environment, pro-conservation president, we'll need to start thinking about who's out there, making contacts, and getting ourselves a seat at the election table, so that our voices and

views are heard. Time to get proactive, now.

So, let's finish our grieving for this lost election, cancel the exits to Canada, Mexico, and other countries, and help put our country back together. There's always 2006 for the mid-term elections, and 2008 for the next president.

Wendy King, Editor - Delta Sierran

Deadline for next newsletter is January 17, 2005

The Delta Sierran is a bi-monthly publication of the Delta Chapter of the Sierra Club. Members of the Delta Chapter receive the publication as a membership benefit. Non-members may subscribe by sending a check for \$12.00 for one annual membership to the Delta Chapter at P. O. Box 19469, New Orleans, LA 70179-0469. Back issues of the Delta Sierran can be viewed on our website at <http://louisiana.sierraclub.org>.

**Address Changes:** To change your address, send your name, old and new addresses and member number to:

Sierra Club Member Services  
PO Box 52968  
Boulder, Colorado 80322-2968  
or email the information to:  
[address.changes@sierraclub.org](mailto:address.changes@sierraclub.org)  
Submissions: Article and photograph submissions are always welcome. Please send submissions by the deadlines given in the General Calendar. Send submissions to the newsletter editor at [lesliemarch@hotmail.com](mailto:lesliemarch@hotmail.com) or mail to Leslie March, 67017 Dolan St., Mandeville, LA 70471

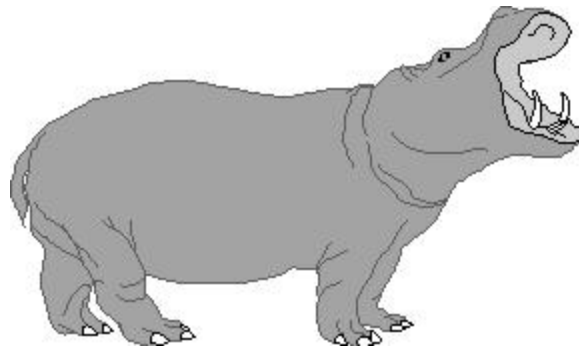
# Earl's Pearls

## OBESITY, GLOBAL WARMING, AND ARCHIMEDES

There was more water in Red Creek than we expected. Yes, there had been rain, and we had hoped that the years of chronic low water, water too shallow to float canoes through several miles of the small, exquisitely beautiful stream in southern Mississippi, were over. The annual Memorial Day Weekend Red Creek Canoe Trip had, in recent years, been cancelled more often than it had taken place. Three years ago the stream's feeder springs pretty much dried up, and ominous green algae appeared in still pools, strong visual evidence that there was almost no movement of the water, let alone enough to buoy canoes and kayaks. The rains returned, and the springs were regenerated, but no one knows for how long.

Should we blame global warming? The weather-tellers on television take glee in reporting that this or that month is the warmest or the second or the third warmest on record. They also eagerly tell us about new records for driest months, or the second or the third or even the fifth.

(When those same weather-tellers in December and January warn us to protect plants, pets, and people from expected sub-freezing temperatures, while I'm covering up my tropical plants with old sheets and blankets, I wonder about and wish for a little immediate global warming.) Global warming debates have gone political, and some elected officials deliberately



ignore the scientific evidence and proclaim that global warming is some sort of myth fomented on a gullible public by liberal environmentalists. But anyone who has camped and canoed in Louisiana and Mississippi for the past dozen or twenty years or so knows that the weather has gotten hotter – and drier.

Thus it was with pleasant surprise that in comfortably warm temperature and bright sun we observed the rushing, gurgling water of Red Creek, shining with the

rich bronze color that gives it its name. *Mirabile dictu!* There was even some near-white water over some shale-like ledges and through v-chutes. The delights of late spring on Red Creek were back with the beauty of the green forests and the fragrant, white magnolias in bloom along the banks.

One of the traditional visual delights of canoeing Red Creek, at least for us heterosexual males (a disreputable social group decidedly not politically correct and better known as dirty old men) has been watching the girls who canoe the stream or dally on the sand bars.

This interaction between the sexes is a very ancient activity inasmuch as for thousands of years young women have gone down to stream banks from their villages to wash themselves and their clothes, to gather water, and to socialize. The men would watch for them, sometimes to protect them from wild beasts and marauders, sometimes as the marauders. It was always satisfying to honor this ancient tradition as we floated past the nubile nymphets ca-

Continued on page 7

# Chapter Calendar of Events

## 2005 Meeting Dates

### 15-16 January 2005

The first chapter meeting of the year will be held in Baton Rouge Jan. 15-16, 2005. The Saturday meeting will be at the Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center in Baton Rouge. The meeting starts at 10:00 AM and is open to all interested members and nonmembers. The center is on Bluebonnet between Perkins and Highland Road, on the right side if you're coming from Perkins. The Excom will meet on Sunday at the Sierra Club's regional office, 4521 Jamestown Ct., Ste. 12 and 13. From I-10, you'd take the College Drive exit and head towards LSU. Take a left on Bennington at the first signal light past the interstate and past a gas station on the left. The meeting on Sunday starts at 9 a.m. It is also an open meeting. Call Nancy Grush at 225.381.9440 or email her at [nancygrush@aol.com](mailto:nancygrush@aol.com) for directions or call Mara Cohen at the regional field office, 225-25-8650.

### ACADIAN GROUP

**General Meeting and Lecture Series** Held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm at the Acadiana Symphony Build-

**15-16 January hosted by the Baton Rouge Group**

**16-17 April hosted by the Honey Island Group**

**16-17 July hosted by the Acadian Group**

**15-16 October hosted by the New Orleans Group**

ing, 412 Travis St., Lafayette, LA. The Acadian Group is always looking for speakers. Past topics include native plants, wildlife, invasive species, reforestation, environmental education, the news media and environmental concerns of local or global nature. If you would like to volunteer or suggest a speaker, please call Paul Fontenot at 337-235-0011.

### BATON ROUGE GROUP

[www.louisiana.sierraclub.org/batonrouge](http://www.louisiana.sierraclub.org/batonrouge)

### General Membership

**Meetings** TBA. Please call Nancy Grush, chair, at 225-381-9440 or check the website.

### Executive Committee

**Meetings** Held the 4th Thursday of each month Location: Maura Wood's office at 4521 Jamestown Ct, Suite 12-13 at 7 pm. Her phone is 225-925-8560, fax is 225-925-8725

### Transportation Committee

**Meeting** Held at 6:45 pm on the

1st Wednesday of each month at Bluebonnet Library, 9200 Bluebonnet. For more info call David Lindenfeld at 766-1983.

### Conservation Committee

**Meeting** Held at 7 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the "Community Room" of the Law Office of Moore, Walters, Thompson, et. al. at 6513 Perkins Rd.

### HONEY ISLAND GROUP

[www.louisiana.sierraclub.org/honeyisland](http://www.louisiana.sierraclub.org/honeyisland)

**Please see our website for meeting info.** This region is one of the fastest growing in the country! In these times of runaway development, we see our primary responsibility as representing our environment — and we are at a crisis point. The pace and personality of our area attracts families looking for a lifestyle that's lost elsewhere. Yet, the laissez faire perspective that was part of those simpler lesser lightened times is costing us habitats and natural beauty. A short time ago, Dr. Susan Howell of the University of New Orleans surveyed Northshore voters, and what they had to say was startling. Respondents said they would accept restrictions on property development, even higher taxes, if it meant controlling development and protecting the environment (86% agreed to prohib-

Continued on page 6

# Updated Chapter Contacts

## 2005 Delta Chapter Excom

Chair: Barbara Coman 504-885-0693  
Barbara.coman@sierraclub.org

Vice Chair: Leslie March 985-871-6695  
lesliemarch@hotmail.com

Secretary: Aaron Viles 504-891-9642  
aaron@healthygulf.org

Treasurer: Barbara Coman 504-885-0693  
Barbara.coman@sierraclub.org

Conservation Chair:  
Maurice Coman 504-885-0693  
mfcoman@aol.com

Webpage Editor  
Rene Maggio 504-251-8944  
nfo@985computing.com

Newsletter Editor:  
Leslie March 985-871-6695  
lesliemarch@hotmail.com

Membership Chair:  
Barbara Coman 504-885-0693  
barbara.coman@sierraclub.org

Member at Large:  
Charlie Fryling 225-766-3120  
CFryling@cox.net

## ACADIAN GROUP

Chair: Harold Schoeffler 337-234-4042  
cadistyle@aol.com

## BATON ROUGE GROUP

Chair: Nancy Grush 225-381-9440  
nancygrush@aol.com

## HONEY ISLAND GROUP

Chair: Caryn Schoeffler 985-386-7678  
caryn@kcwlaw.com

## KISATCHIE GROUP

Chair: Jeff Wellborn 318-868-5243  
jwellborn@seaber.com

## NEW ORLEANS GROUP

Chair: Micah Walker Parkin 504-894-1473  
mwalker@all4energy.org

## Sierra Club Staff

Below is the contact information for Sierra Club regional staff members in the Baton Rouge Field office.

Maura Wood, Sr Regional Representative  
225-925-8650 Fax 225-925-8725  
maurawood@earthlink.net

Daryl Malek-Wiley, Associate Representative,  
Grass roots organizer for Environmental Justice  
504-865-8708 H/O, Mon-Tues 225-925-8650;  
cell 504-427-1885  
darryl.malek-wiley@sierraclub.org

Mara Cohen, Program Assistant  
tel 225-925-8650 fax 225-925-8725  
maracohen@sierraclub.org

## Act Now and Save the Environment!

Make a commitment  
to the next generation  
by remembering the  
Sierra Club in your will.  
Your support will help  
others preserve the  
intricate balance  
of nature.

For more information and confidential assistance,  
please complete the form and send to:  
John Calaway, Director, Gift Planning  
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco,  
CA 94105 (415) 977-5639 •  
e-mail: planned.giving@sierraclub.org

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter Events

(Continued from page 4)

iting building in flood plains, marshes, and wetlands)!The more we all know, the broader our perspectives, the more we can understand how all the parts fit, the better we can fit them together. Getting the word out is crucial. So, we see our role as primarily educational. We hope our newsletter, outings, and programs will help.

### KISATCHIE GROUP

The Kisatchie Group is the home of Sierra Club members throughout much of northwestern Louisiana, centered on Shreveport.

Our group is looking for an activist and/or volunteer to coordinate meetings. Any members who want to become more active with the group are welcome. The Kisatchie Group is currently involved in a number of local activities, including supporting efforts to form an advisory group to help develop a plan for Shreveport's Riverfront to preserve green spaces, the kickoff of the Community Foundation of Shreveport/ Bossier Environmental Field of Interest (FOI) to support and promote environmental education, and responsible development of the Red River Education and Research Park at Bickham Dickson Park. If you are interested in our group's activities contact Jeff Wellborn at 318-222-1801 or [jwellbrn@bellsouth.net](mailto:jwellbrn@bellsouth.net) or write

to Kisatchie Group, PO Box 2098, Shreveport, LA 71166-2098.

### NEW ORLEANS GROUP

<http://louisiana.sierraclub.org/neworleans>

**Executive Committee Meeting** Open to all members. If interested in attending call Micah Walker Parkin at 504-865-8708 or check the above website.

### Upcoming Opportunities

**Brown Bag Lunch** with Sierra Club Staff held every second Tuesday at 4521 Jamestowne Ave. Suite 12-13 in Baton Rouge. All welcome. Call Mara Cohen for details. 225-925-8650.

### Information Transfer Meeting January 11-13, 2005 Kenner, Louisiana

The 23rd Information Transfer Meeting (ITM) is being hosted by the Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Region of the Minerals Management Service (MMS) at the Airport Hilton, Kenner, Louisiana. The purpose of the ITM is to foster sharing of information among participants about current research, accomplishments, or issues of concern to the MMS. Presentations at the ITM pertain to the MMS Gulf of Mexico

OCS oil and gas program, as well as regional environmental, social, or economic concerns, or current OCS industry activities or technologies.

Sessions for the 23rd ITM include: Deepwater Technology, Air Quality, Sperm Whale Research, Deepwater Ecology, History of the Oil and Gas Industry, Coastal Studies, Physical Oceanography, Environmental Fates and Effects of Discharges, and Chemosynthetic Communities.

Participants can register for the conference at: <http://conferences.uno.edu/>

**“A Wake for Peace”  
Jazz Funeral for Democracy  
New Orleans, La. Jan 20th  
11:00 AM.  
[www.jazzfuneralfordemocracy.com](http://www.jazzfuneralfordemocracy.com)**



## Mother's Day Gift Membership

Give the gift of Sierra Club Membership. It's a wonderful way to let that special person in your life know you care, about them and the environment.



Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Member's Weekender Bag

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Gift Recipient's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club

MasterCard  Visa  American Express

Exp Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose check and mail to:

Sierra Club,  
P.O. Box 52968,  
Boulder, CO  
80322-2968

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES	
INDIVIDUAL ADULT	
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39 <input type="checkbox"/> \$47
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150 <input type="checkbox"/> \$175
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24 <input type="checkbox"/> \$32
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24 <input type="checkbox"/> \$32
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24 <input type="checkbox"/> \$32

F94Q  W  1



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

# Talk about values

Continued from page 1

sible to his or her children?" said Pope. "Make it clear that the issues the Sierra Club supports are rooted in the values of its members and in their neighbors' values as well."

In order to effectively reach those voters who are halfheartedly with us but not passionately with us, spokespeople for the Sierra Club must be likeable and their message must be one that gives people hope. Pope emphasized that Sierra Club members must engage people in conversation, inspire them to care about environmental

policy and motivate them to take action in their communities.

Pope referred to an essay written by Thomas Paine in 1776 that General Washington ordered to be read to the troops at Valley Forge on Christmas Eve shortly before the crossing of the Delaware. Paine encouraged the men with the words "These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman." As Paine's words in-

spired men to fight for freedom from England so must we, as Sierra Club members, encourage citizens to fight for clean air and water. All politics are local, Pope said, and local is home. (Note: author Rachael Hunter is a graduate of LSU who lives in Ft. Collins, CO)

**Got Beads?** Betty Brody is looking for volunteers to help her recycle beads for The ARC. She will ask businesses to set out bins. She can be contacted at [SierraClubNO@aol.com](mailto:SierraClubNO@aol.com) or (504) 586-1381.

## Earl's Pearls

Continued from page 7

vorting on the sand bars or standing glistening wet from the bronze water, waving with bright smiles to the men drifting slowly, as slowly as politely possible, downstream.

Those svelte bodies in bikinis of yesteryear are no more. What is worse is that they have been replaced by a new generation that is anything but svelte. The young women – and their accompanying menfolk and children too – fill their canoes and flat boats with broad-bottomed bodies so wide that they drape flesh over the boats' gunwales, port and starboard. They sit in the creek, drinking beer, munching junk food, and smoking cigarettes in some oddly aggressive effort to prove that all those public health warnings are in fact true. Ap-

proaching a group of the corpulent stream bathers, a canoeist is instantly reminded of a family of hippopotami sloshing in an African river. One remembers that hippos are the most dangerous mammal in Africa, and the sight of a bikini-clad stream bather displaying an extra seventy pounds of flesh is a frightening experience indeed. Just as in prior years, the ladies smiled and waved, but the boats quickly passed, riding the fast-moving water. These events lead, as they inevitably must, to Archimedes. In every cloud there is a silver lining; when you are given a lemon, make lemonade; if the egg breaks, have an omelet; and other optimistic, Pollyanna clichés are apropos at this point. Archimedes is, as we all remember well, the Greek guy who de-

termined that buoyancy is the force exerted on a submerged object that makes it float. The principle is also stated as a submerged object displaces an amount of fluid equal to its mass. The ghost of Archimedes was sitting on the banks of Red Creek, I am convinced, sipping nectar and nibbling figs, grinning as he watched the obese folk submerge themselves into the stream and others whose weight sank their canoes into the flow almost to the boats' waterlines. All that extra blubber, all that extra mass, raised the creek's water level and increased the downstream current. We acknowledged our debt to the Ol' Greek and vowed to quaff a libation of Ouzo in his honor. Skinny young girls could never have such a beneficial effect on the level of Red Creek.

Tree Hugger Haikus By Steve Roberts, New Orleans Group

great age-ed Cypress

Pick up your knees and run

For here comes the salt

Willow stop your weeping

Humans are not here for long

You shall smile again

No child left behind

Clear skies and healthy forests

Patriot Act, all bushit

Kyoto is real

Kyoto is but one step

Lead America!

Global warming....real

Two sides to every coin

New shipping channels

Four more years of Bush

Surely I will awake soon

This is but a dream

Four more years of this

Surely with me you jest

Very funny man . . .

Delta Chapter  
PO Box 19469  
New Orleans, LA 70179-0469

Non Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
New Orleans, LA  
Permit No. 304

